

REMARKS

No new matter is added by this amendment. The present application was filed on September 12, 2003 with original claims 1-79, of which claims 1 and 40 are independent. By this amendment claims 1-4 and 40-42 are amended, claim 5 is cancelled and new claim 80 has been added. The claims remaining in consideration are claims 1-4 and 6-80. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6-41, and 45-79 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,833,540 issued November 10, 1998 to Robert L. Miodunski et al ("Miodunski"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 40 have been amended to more clearly identify the subject matter applicants regard as the invention.

Amended claim 1 sets forth a remote system for use with a gaming system for processing a table rating. The gaming system includes at least one gaming machine, e.g., a table game, playable by a player. The remote system includes a remote device and a host computer. The remote device is embodied in a handheld computer which may be carried by a user (who is not the player), for receiving table rating information related to the player. The host computer is coupled to the at least one gaming machine by a network and includes a database and a remote network interface. The remote network interface is coupled to the remote device via a wireless connection for exchanging data between the host computer and the remote device. The data includes table rating information relating to the player. The data is stored in the database. The host computer allows the user to view, on the remote device, the table rating information relating to the player and update the table rating information relating to the player.

Amended claim 40 sets forth a method for use with a gaming system. The gaming system includes at least one gaming machine, e.g., a table game, playable by a player, a host computer coupled to the at least one gaming machine by a network, the host computer including a database coupled to the remote network for retrieving and storing data therein, the method including the steps of providing a remote device embodied in a handheld computer which may be carried by a user (who is not the player) sending a fillable form to

the remote device for receiving table rating information over a wireless connection, allowing the user to fill out the fillable form with identification information related to the player, and sending the identification information related to the player to the host computer. The method also includes the step of allowing the user to perform at least one of the following: view the table rating information relating to the player on the remote device and update the table rating information relating to the player.

In contrast, Miodunski provides a network gaming system where the games themselves are networked to a central computer. The "game transmits information about the player's play to the central computer which maintains a record of the player's performance."

Thus, Miodunski does not teach, *inter alia*, a remote device embodied in a handheld computer which allows a user to view and/or update table rating information related to a player, as required by amended independent claim 1, or the step of providing such a remote device, as required by amended independent claim 40.

The present invention, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 40 allows a user, i.e., non-player or casino employee, to observe a player's play at a gaming machine that is not or cannot be electronic coupled or networked to a player tracking system, such as a table game, and view, enter or update rating information.

Since Miodunski does not teach each and every element of independent claims 1 and 40, applicants respectfully assert that the §102(b) rejection of independent claims 1 and 40 is improper and must be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 6-41, and 45-79 are ultimately dependent upon allowable independent claim 1 or 40. Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, and based on their own merits, applicants respectfully assert that claims 2, 6-41, and 45-79 are also allowable.

Claims 3-5 and 42-44 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over Miodunski. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 3-5 and 42-44 are ultimately dependent upon allowable claims 1 and 40, respectfully. As discussed above, Miodunski does not include each and every limitation of independent claims 1 and 40. Therefore for the reasons set forth above, and based on their own merits, applicants respectfully assert that claims 3-5 and 42-44 are also allowable.

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New independent claim 80 sets forth a method for use with a gaming system including at least one gaming machine playable by a player. The method includes the steps of providing a host computer coupled to the at least one gaming machine by a network and a remote device embodied in a handheld computer which may be carried by a user who is not the player. The computer including a database coupled to the remote network for retrieving and storing data therein. The remote device being networked to the host computer over a wireless connection. The method further including the steps of allowing the user to open a table rating for the player by entering identification information related to the player on the remote device, sending the identification information related to the player to the host computer over the wireless connection, allowing the user to enter or update table rating information stored in the database and relating to the player.

Miodunski makes no such teaching. Therefore, applicants respectfully assert that new independent claim 80 is allowable over Miodunski.

All of the Examiner's rejections having been successfully overcome, applicants respectfully assert that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due, however, if any become required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C.

Respectfully submitted

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Date

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